

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining and maintaining storage information related to storage characteristics of a table in a database, comprising:

locking a particular table to be baselined;

baselining the table contained in the database, wherein storage information comprising the average row length of the rows in the table and the average free space in the table is obtained;

unlocking the table after it is baselined;

making an entry into a transaction log, wherein the entry contains the storage information;

retrieving the storage information from the transaction log; and

periodically updating the storage information by monitoring subsequent entries in the transaction log.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

making an entry into the transaction log that the [particular] table is to be baselined; and preparing a storage area to receive the storage information for the [particular] table.

3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

sending the storage information to a requesting entity, wherein a portion of the storage information is row identifications; and

deleting the row identifications, wherein the requesting entity maintains the row identifications.

4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the periodically updating step includes adding row identifications to the storage information when a first particular entry in the transaction log indicates a new chained row, and removing row identifications from the storage information when a second particular entry indicates a changed row has been removed.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the storage information includes information reflecting a block count, number of rows, [average row length, average free space,] and number of chained/migrated rows in the table.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a function native to the database performs the baselining step, an initial routine performs making an entry steps, and a monitoring routine performs the retrieving and periodically updating steps.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising repeating the baselining and making an entry steps for additional tables as specified by a user.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer system, containing a database, that executes a database system program for managing data contained in the database, and a storage information program that computes and monitors storage information for the database, comprising:

a processor; and

memory units, electrically connected to the processor, wherein the database system program directs the processor to retrieve portions of the database from the memory units for manipulation by the processor, and the storage information program directs the computer system to operate in a mode of operation to compute and monitor the storage information, wherein

a table contained in the database is locked, thereby preventing modifications of the [particular] table;

the table is baselined by the database system program, wherein storage information comprising the average row length of the rows in the table and the average free space in the table is obtained;

the table is unlocked, wherein access to the [particular] table is restored;

an entry into a transaction log is made, wherein the entry contains the storage information; and

the monitoring routine retrieves the storage information from the transaction log, and periodically updates the storage information by monitoring subsequent entries in the transaction log.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer system as recited in claim 8, wherein the compute and monitor mode of operation further includes:

making an entry into the transaction log that the [particular] table is to be baselined; and preparing a storage area to receive the storage information for the [particular] table.

10. (Original) The computer system as recited in claim 9; wherein the compute and monitor mode of operation further includes:

sending the storage information to a requesting entity, wherein a portion of the storage information is row identifications; and

deleting the row identifications, wherein the requesting entity maintains the row identifications.

11. (Original) The computer system is recited in claim 10, wherein the compute and monitor mode of operation further includes the monitoring routine adding row identifications to

the storage information when a first particular entry in the transaction log indicates a new chained row, and removing row identifications from the storage information when a second particular entry indicates a changed row has been removed.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer system as recited in claim 8, wherein the storage information includes information reflecting a block count, number of rows, [average row length, average free space,] and number of chained/migrated rows in the table.

13. (Original) The computer system as recited in claim 8, wherein the database system program is a database system program produced by Oracle Corporation.

14. (Original) The computer system as recited in claim 8, wherein the compute and monitor mode of operation further includes baselining each table in the database, and making an entry into the transaction log for each table baselined.

15-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing software executable by a computer system and designed to obtain and maintain storage information related to storage characteristics of a table in a database, the software comprising instructions for:

locking a table, thereby preventing modifications of the table;

making a first entry into a transaction log that the table is to be baselined;

baselining the table, wherein the storage information comprising the average row length of the rows in the table and the average free space in the table is obtained;

unlocking the table after it is baselined, wherein access to the [particular] table is restored;

preparing a storage area to receive the storage information for the table;

making a second entry into the transaction log, wherein the second entry contains the storage information;

retrieving the storage information from the transaction log; and

periodically updating the storage information by monitoring subsequent entries in the transaction log.

23. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein the stored software further comprises instructions for:

sending the storage information to a requesting entity, wherein a portion of the storage information is row identifications; and

deleting the row identifications, wherein the requesting entity maintains the row identifications.

24. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the stored software further comprises instructions for periodically updating the storage information by adding row identifications to the storage information when a third entry in the transaction log indicates a new chained row, and removing row identifications from the storage information when a fourth entry indicates a chained row has been removed.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein the stored software further comprises instructions for baselining the table to obtain storage information comprising information reflecting a block count, number of rows, [average row length, average free space,] and number of chained/migrated rows in the table.

26. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein the stored software further comprises instructions for:

using a function native to the database to baseline the database;

using an initial routine to make the entries into the transaction log; and  
using a monitoring routine to retrieve the storage information from the transaction log  
and to periodically update the storage information.

27. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein the stored software further comprises instructions for repeatedly baselining the table and making entries into the transaction log as specified by a user.

28. (New) A method for obtaining and maintaining storage information related to storage characteristics of a table in a database, comprising:

locking a particular table to be baselined;  
baselining the table contained in the database, wherein storage information is obtained;  
unlocking the table after it is baselined;  
making an entry into a transaction log, wherein the entry contains the storage information;  
retrieving the storage information from the transaction log;  
periodically updating the storage information by monitoring subsequent entries in the transaction log, comprising the steps of adding row identifications to the storage information when a first particular entry in the transaction log indicates a new chained row, and removing row identifications from the storage information when a second particular entry indicates a changed row has been removed;  
sending the storage information to a requesting entity, wherein a portion of the storage information is row identifications; and  
deleting the row identifications, wherein the requesting entity maintains the row identifications.

29. (New) A computer system, containing a database, that executes a database system program for managing data contained in the database, and a storage information program that computes and monitors storage information for the database, comprising:

a processor; and

memory units, electrically connected to the processor, wherein the database system program directs the processor to retrieve portions of the database from the memory units for manipulation by the processor, and the storage information program directs the computer system to operate in a mode of operation to compute and monitor the storage information, wherein

a table contained in the database is locked, thereby preventing modifications of the table;

an entry into the transaction log that the table is to be baselined is made;

the table is baselined by the database system program, wherein storage information is obtained;

the table is unlocked, wherein access to the table is restored;

a storage area to receive the storage information for the table is prepared;

an entry into a transaction log is made, wherein the entry contains the storage information;

the monitoring routine retrieves the storage information from the transaction log and periodically updates the storage information by monitoring subsequent entries in the transaction log, comprising adding row identifications by the monitoring routine to the storage information when a first particular entry in the transaction log indicates a new chained row has been created and removing row identifications from the storage information when a second particular entry indicates a changed row has been removed ;

the storage information is sent to a requesting entity, wherein a portion of the storage information is row identifications; and

the row identifications are deleted, wherein the requesting entity maintains the row identifications.

30. (New) A computer-readable storage medium storing software executable by a computer system and designed to obtain and maintain storage information related to storage characteristics of a table in a database, the software comprising instructions for:

locking a table, thereby preventing modifications of the table;

making a first entry into a transaction log that the table is to be baselined;

baselining the table, wherein the storage information is obtained;

unlocking the table after it is baselined, wherein access to the [particular] table is restored;

preparing a storage area to receive the storage information for the table;

making a second entry into the transaction log, wherein the second entry contains the storage information;

retrieving the storage information from the transaction log;

periodically updating the storage information by monitoring subsequent entries in the transaction log, comprising adding row identifications to the storage information when a third entry in the transaction log indicates a new chained row, and removing row identifications from the storage information when a fourth entry indicates a chained row has been removed;

sending the storage information to a requesting entity, wherein a portion of the storage information is row identifications; and

deleting the row identifications, wherein the requesting entity maintains the row identifications.